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Council wants to lower speed limit in Boston. 2

DANNY PICARD ON THE 2016 SOX
These guys might actually be good. 15

# PRAY FOR BETTER RELIGIOUS MOVIES

The audiences of the faithful don't deserve terrible films like "God's Not Dead." We take a look at a genre that could really use a miracle. 9

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## 3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

### CHICAGO POLICE UNION HIRES OFFICER WHO KILLED BLACK TEEN

1 The Chicago police union has hired as a janitor the white officer charged with fatally shooting a black teenager in 2014 as a way of helping him financially, local media reported Thursday. Jason Van Dyke was charged with first-degree murder last November, more than a year after he shot Laquan McDonald 16 times. The October 2014 shooting was captured on patrol-car dashboard camera videos that were released the day Van Dyke was charged, prompting weeks of protests. Dean Angelo, president of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge 7, told local media Van Dyke wash hired about three weeks ago. REUTERS

### PENTAGON TO SEND SOME GUANTANAMO INMATES TO OTHER COUNTRIES

2 The Pentagon plans to transfer about a dozen inmates of the Guantanamo military prison to at least two countries that have agreed to take them, a U.S. official said Wednesday, the latest move in President Barack Obama's final push to close the facility. The first of the transfers is expected in the next few days and the others will take place in coming weeks, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Among them will be Tariq Ba Odah, a Yemeni man who has been on a long-term hunger strike and has lost about half his body weight. There are now 91 prisoners at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Most have been held without charge or trial for more than a decade, drawing international condemnation. REUTERS

### FBI TEAMS HELPING BELGIUM INVESTIGATE RECENT ATTACKS

3 The United States has sent FBI teams to help Belgian authorities investigate the March 22 attacks that killed 35 people, including several Americans, and U.S. and Belgian officials will discuss the cooperation this week, the White House said Thursday. "Belgium has accepted our assistance. We have FBI teams on the ground assisting with the investigation. We are sharing information and intelligence with Belgium as it relates to terrorist threats," White House Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes told reporters. Rhodes said the Belgian interior minister was expected to discuss the security cooperation with Attorney General Loretta Lynch during the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington this week. REUTERS

Speed radar signs have been installed along major roads around Boston. NICOLAUS CZARNECKI

# City Council seeks 20 mph speed limit

Transit advocates said they support slowing down traffic on city streets.

SPENCER BUELL
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Those getting behind the wheel on city streets would be forced to drive more slowly if members of Boston's City Council get their way with Beacon Hill.

Councilor Frank Baker on Wednesday filed a home rule petition seeking to reduce the speed limit in parts of the city deemed "thickly settled" from 30 mph to 20 mph, without having to conduct traffic studies and change speed limits street-by-street.

It also calls for a 15 mph speed limit in school zones.

"Probably my No. 1 complaint [from constituents] is, 'How can we get these vehicles to stop speeding on my street?'" Baker said.

The city can post signs with reduced speeds on individual streets but does not have the authority to change the default speed citywide. Doing so would require approval from state lawmakers who, safe streets advocates say, have been reluctant to approve changes in the past.

Baker said he was hopeful his proposal would survive the State House.

"You would think that legislators would look at it through a lens where they would say, 'Boston wants to do this. This works for their community,'" he said.

Mayor Marty Walsh last year supported an unsuccessful bill sponsored by State Rep. Liz Malia of Jamaica Plain that would have allowed cities and towns to reduce speed limits to 25 mph.

> *"It's really great for the city to take a stand on this."*
> DeWolfe

Walsh has also overseen a program called Vision Zero, which aims to reduce the number of traffic fatalities in the city to zero.

Walsh, in a statement, did not take an immediate position on Baker's proposal.

"Lowering speed limits is one of many tools we are looking at through our Vision Zero action plan to create safer streets in Boston. I look forward to reviewing Councilor Baker's proposal," he said.

Boston's advocates for changes on Boston roadways that support bikers and pedestrians said they back the council's efforts.

"We're very pleased to see the City Council talking about the issue," Wendy Landman, executive director of WalkBoston, said. "It is the single most important way to reduce the risk of death and serious injury on the streets."

She said the likelihood of being killed or seriously hurt in a crash is significantly lower when a car is traveling at 20 mph, as opposed to 30 or 40 mph.

By WalkBoston's count, there have been five fatal pedestrian crashes in Boston so far in 2016.

"The time is really right for us to get this epidemic of deaths under control," said Kristina Egan, director of Transportation for Massachusetts.

She said the city should also employ "traffic techniques like strategically placed planters and road-markings to keep drivers moving slowly.

"It's really great for the city to take a stand on this," said Jackie DeWolfe, executive director of the LivableStreets Alliance. "Something needs to change. This is one thing that could help."

Lowering speeds, though, is not the only tool the city should be using, DeWolfe said.

"We know it's not just about posting a different speed limit and all of a sudden that solves our problems," DeWolfe said. "This also needs to come in conjunction with infrastructure changes so the street itself enforces it."

City leaders have launched a pilot program to test a 20 mph speed limit in parts of Dorchester and Jamaica Plain.

The pilot is underway in the Talbot-Norfolk Triangle in Dorchester, according to Bonnie McGilpin, city spokeswoman. A second pilot in Jamaica Plain's Stony Brook neighborhood hasn't begun, she said.

Speed on Boston streets was in the spotlight this month after an apparent road-racing crash on Beacon Street in Back Bay. One man was injured when the driver of a Bentley jumped a curb, then abandoned the vehicle and drove off in another car, according to police.

The crash brought increased patrols to the neighborhood.

# Officer in Italian prime minister's motorcade hurt in Boston crash

The incident happened on O'Brien Highway near the Museum of Science.

A Boston police officer helping escort Italian Prime Minister Mateo Renzi was seriously injured in a crash Thursday morning, The Hub reported.

The incident happened on O'Brien Highway around 10:15 a.m. near the Museum of Science when the officer, on a motorcycle, crashed into a Subaru that had New York plates, WCVB reported.

Massachusetts State Police reported the officer was taken to Massachusetts General Hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

MATTHEW LEE

A Boston police officer in motorcade escorting Italian prime minister was injured in an accident. NICOLAUS CZARNECKI

## BRIEF

**Massachusetts 13-year-old took stolen car on 30-mile joyride**

A 13-year-old Massachusetts boy was in court Thursday to face charges of stealing a sport utility vehicle and taking it on a 30-mile joyride before crashing in Boston, prosecutors and local media said.

The youth, who was not identified due to his age, will face charges including receiving a stolen motor vehicle, assault with a dangerous weapon and failure to stop for police, Suffolk County prosecutors said.

He stole the vehicle near a group home where he had been living in Foxborough, south of Boston, and drove toward the city Wednesday night, the Boston Globe reported.

State police encountered the vehicle on an interstate highway and pursued it until the driver veered into a residential area and fled.

He was captured with the assistance of police dogs, the newspaper reported. REUTERS


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BRIEF

**Another statue vandalized at Boston-area church**

Another Boston-area church has been the victim of vandalization. A statue of the Virgin Mary at a Billerica church was found damaged on Wednesday morning, WHDH reported.

The statue at St. Mary's Church on Boston Road was decapitated and had its hands cut off.

WCVB reported that police believe the vandalism happened late Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning.

This is the second incident of vandalism of a Boston-area church's religious iconography this week. A similar case of statues having their hands and heads removed happened a mere 4-mile drive away in Burlington's St. Margaret Parish.

Additionally, WHDH reported that another case of vandalism happened at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Norwood over the weekend.

MATTHEW LEE

# Boston Latin student disciplined for tweets

The pupil used the #BlackatBLS hashtag, Headmaster Lynne Mooney Teta said in a letter.

SPENCER BUELL
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The Boston Latin School has disciplined a student who shared messages deemed offensive on social media, the institution's headmaster said this week.

The student posted racially insensitive remarks on Twitter, Headmaster Lynne Mooney Teta wrote in a letter to the school's community Tuesday.

The student, who has not been identified, posted using the hashtag #BlackatBLS, Teta wrote. Others have used the hashtag to share stories about brushes with racism in the school and express solidarity with one another.

"BLS will not condone hateful, racially motivated incidents of any nature," Teta wrote.

She did not specify the disciplinary actions taken against the student, and it's not clear what was contained in the messages the student posted.

Boston Latin NICOLAUS CZARNECKI

*"BLS will not condone hateful, racially motivated incidents of any nature."*

Teta

A campaign launched by two students this year to raise awareness about race issues at the school has led to increased scrutiny of BLS, including an investigation led by U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz into allegations of racism.

An internal Boston Public Schools investigation in February found the school did not respond properly to reports that a student used a racial slur directed at a female peer and "threatened her with a reference to lynching," according to the Boston Globe.

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# Priest defrocked for sexual abuse of minors: Church

The clergyman was serving in a parish in Norwell.

A suburban Boston priest has been defrocked by the Vatican after an investigation by the Roman Catholic church found him guilty of child sexual abuse, the Boston Archdiocese said Thursday.

The priest, Thomas H. Maguire, was serving as pastor of St. Helen Mother of the Emperor Constantine church in Norwell, Massachusetts, about 25 miles southeast of Boston, when he was accused in 2012 of inappropriate sexual activity with minors. Maguire was suspended from priestly duties at that time.

Police investigated that allegation but did not find evidence of a crime.

However, following the news of Maguire's suspension, other people came forward to accuse him of sexual abuse dating to the mid-1990s and earlier, the Boston Archdiocese said in a statement.

A probe by church officials into those earlier allegations concluded that Maguire was guilty of abuse of a minor, the archdiocese said.

It was unclear if there was one or more victims, and the earlier incidents were too old to be criminally prosecuted.

"We are grateful to the victims who had the strength to come forward," the archdiocese said. "Their courage assisted the Church in seeking justice."

Under the Church's rules, once a bishop's investigation has found that a member of clergy has sexually abused a minor, the case is referred to the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which holds the power to defrock.

*"We are grateful to the victims who had the strength to come forward. Their courage assisted the Church in seeking justice."*

The archdiocese

Maguire, who was ordained in 1976 and served in nine Massachusetts parishes, could not be reached for immediate comment Thursday.

The clergy sex-abuse scandal broke in 2002 with the Boston Globe's Pulitzer Prize-winning investigation revealing that Church officials routinely covered up sex abuse by priests. That set off a global wave of investigations that found similar patterns at dioceses around the world, undercutting the Church's moral authority.

The 2015 film "Spotlight," which chronicled the Globe's reporting of the clergy sex abuse scandal, earlier this year won the Academy Award for Best Picture.

The Vatican unveiled in 2014 that it had defrocked more than 800 priests since the start of the crisis.

Insurance experts told a Vatican conference in 2012 that as many as 100,000 U.S. children may have been the victims of clerical sex abuse.

Some 12 U.S. dioceses have filed for bankruptcy since the scandal broke, in part due to more than $3 billion in settlements paid to victims. REUTERS

## BRIEF

**Police seek person of interest in Yawkey Way shooting**

Police released surveillance footage from a 2015 shooting they hope will assist detectives in identifying a man who may have witnessed the gunfight on Yawkey Way.

Jephthe Chery was shot and killed around 2 a.m. on Nov. 26, 2015, when police said he was caught in crossfire. Police said they believe Chery was merely an innocent bystander when the shooting occurred.

Three other men were wounded, but survived their injuries. One of the suspects, Dominque Carpenter-Grady was arrested and indicted on firearms charges following his arrest.

Police said they are looking for a man in the video, seen wearing a camouflage-print jacket and pacing back and forth near the scene prior to the gunfire.

Investigators stressed the man is not necessarily a suspect, and that they wanted to speak with him about his observations at the scene.

Anyone with information on his identity, the shootings, or Chery's homicide is asked to contact Boston Police homicide detectives at 617-343-4470. Tipsters who wish to remain anonymous may also call the Boston Police CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1-800-494-TIPS or text the word "TIP" to CRIME (27463). CHRIS CAESAR

Surveillance of the person of interest, seen circled PROVIDED

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BRIEF

**Suspected gunman, state trooper dead in Virginia shooting: media**

A Virginia state trooper and a suspected gunman died in a shooting at a Richmond bus station Thursday, local media reported, citing police sources.

About six people including the trooper and gunman were injured in the attack, which took place around 2:45 p.m. EDT as state police were conducting a training exercise at the bus station, near a baseball stadium, local media reported.

Virginia State Police spokeswoman Corinne Geller said she did not know the nature or severity of the injuries to the troopers or to a wounded civilian woman.

A spokesman for VCU Medical Center in Richmond said the hospital was expecting patients from the shooting, but declined to release further information.

Michael Bickett, who said he works directly across the street from the loading area from the buses said in a direct Twitter message: "A co-worker was eating lunch in his car when he saw Greyhound workers and customers rushing out the side door. He figured that was a good time to get back inside."

REUTERS

# Immigration minister: Canada to take in 10,000 more Syrian refugees

Syrian refugees arriving in Toronto. GETTY IMAGES

McCallum told the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. he was responding to complaints from Canadian groups who want to sponsor Syrian refugees but did not have their applications processed quickly enough to be among the government's initial target of 25,000.

Canada will take in an additional 10,000 Syrian refugees, adding to the more than 25,000 already received in the last few months, Immigration Minister John McCallum said Thursday in Germany, where an influx of refugees has sparked a backlash.

"We are doing everything we can to accommodate the very welcomed desire on the part of Canadians to sponsor refugees," McCallum said in a phone interview with CBC News from Berlin, where he is meeting with the German interior minister.

The Liberal government won election in October 2015 pledging to bring in more Syrian refugees more quickly than the previous Conservative government. Private groups including church, family and community organizations had lined up to sponsor Syrian families.

The welcome contrasts sharply to Europe, where resettlement has sparked an anti-migrant backlash amid security fears.

While there have been some delays finding permanent housing for refugees arriving in Canada, particularly in large cities like Toronto, where the housing market is tight, the resettlement program has been mostly smooth.

A poll released last month showed Canadians were divided over whether to accept more Syrian refugees.

A total of 26,200 Syrian refugees had arrived in Canada as of March 28, according to the Immigration Department. But nearly 16,000 more applications are in process or have been finalized, even though the refugees have not yet arrived, according to official figures.

McCallum said he has instructed bureaucrats to extend the deadline for submitting sponsorship applications to Thursday from the initial March 1 deadline, which should allow the department to process the backlog.

REUTERS

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RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

# Trump meets with RNC after dumping his loyalty pledge

On Tuesday, Trump backed away from a loyalty pledge he signed in September promising to support the party's eventual nominee and not to run an independent campaign for the White House.

Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump made a surprise closed-door visit to the Republican National Committee on Thursday after a tumultuous two days that featured a reversal of his pledge to support the party's nominee.

Trump, who also has struggled to contain the fallout from his comments Wednesday in support of punishing women for having abortions, tweeted afterward that he had a "nice meeting" with RNC Chairman Reince Preibus but divulged no details.

"Looking forward to bringing the party together," he said. "And it will happen!"

Trump's relationship with the RNC has been contentious at times, and he recently complained the party was not treating him fairly as it made preparations for a possible contested convention in July in Cleveland.

The RNC pledge has unraveled as Trump's remaining rivals, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and Ohio Gov. John Kasich, also indicated they were unlikely to observe the pledge if Trump was the nominee.

Barry Bennett, an adviser to the Trump campaign, said Thursday's visit was about Trump helping the RNC raise money.

"The meeting is to help the RNC," he said on MSNBC.

The billionaire businessman was in Washington for an announced meeting with members of his newly established foreign policy team. His campaign said it also was setting up a Washington office to run its convention operations and work with the RNC and Congress.

But Trump's campaign also was trying to dig out from under a torrent of criticism about his comment that women should face punishment for getting abortions if the procedure was outlawed, although he quickly reversed his stance. REUTERS

## A Hillary 'selfie'

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton takes a selfie with supporters after speaking at the State University of New York at Purchase on Thursday. Clinton gave a speech to students and supporters that covered a host of domestic and international issues. New York will hold its primaries April 19. GETTY IMAGES

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# Collapse of overpass in India kills 14; scores feared trapped

An overpass under construction in the bustling Indian city of Kolkata collapsed Thursday onto vehicles and street vendors below, killing at least 14 people with more than 100 people feared trapped.

Residents used their bare hands to try to rescue people pinned under a 110-yard length of metal and cement that snapped off at one end and came crashing down in a teeming commercial district near Girish Park.

"The concrete had been laid last night at this part of the bridge," resident Ramesh Kejriwal told Reuters.

"I am lucky as I was planning to go downstairs to have juice. When I was thinking about it, I saw that the bridge had collapsed."

Video footage aired on TV channels showed a street scene with two auto rickshaws and a crowd of people suddenly obliterated by a mass of falling concrete that narrowly missed cars crawling in a traffic jam.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, whose center-left party is seeking re-election in the state of West Bengal next month, rushed to the scene.

Banerjee, 61, said those responsible for the disaster would not be spared. Yet she herself faces questions about a construction project that has been plagued by delays and safety fears.

A newspaper reported last November that Banerjee wanted the overpass — already five years overdue — to be completed by February. Project engineers expressed concerns over whether this would be possible, The Telegraph said at the time. REUTERS

*"We will take every action to save lives of those trapped beneath the collapsed flyover. Rescue is our top priority."*

Chief Minister
Mamata Banerjee

Apple said it would like the government to provide information about the technique used. GETTY IMAGES

# FBI's secret method of unlocking iPhone may never reach Apple

Under the U.S. vulnerabilities equities process, the government is supposed to err in favor of disclosing security issues so companies can devise fixes to protect data.

The FBI may be allowed to withhold information about how it broke into an iPhone belonging to a gunman in the December San Bernardino shootings, despite a U.S. government policy of disclosing technology security flaws discovered by federal agencies.

Apple Inc. has said it would like the government to share how it cracked the iPhone security protections. But the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which has been frustrated by its inability to access data on encrypted phones belonging to criminal suspects, might prefer to keep secret the technique it used to gain access to gunman Syed Farook's phone.

The referee is likely to be a White House group formed during the Obama administration to review computer security flaws discovered by federal agencies and decide whether they should be disclosed.

Experts said government policy on such reviews was not clear-cut, so it was hard to predict whether a review would be required. "There are no hard and fast rules," said White House cybersecurity coordinator Michael Daniel, in a 2014 blog post about the process.

If a review is conducted, many security researchers expect that the White House group will not require the FBI to disclose the vulnerability it exploited.

Some experts said the FBI might be able to avoid a review entirely if, for instance, it got past the phone's encryption using a contractor's proprietary technology.

Explaining the policy in 2014, the Office of the Director of National Security said the government should disclose vulnerabilities "unless there is a clear national security or law enforcement need."

The interagency review process also considers whether others are likely to find the vulnerability. It tends to focus on flaws in major networks and software, rather than individual devices.

During a press call, a senior Justice Department official declined to disclose whether the method used on Farook's phone would work on other phones or would be shared with state and local law enforcement. REUTERS

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"God's Not Dead 2" once again tries to convince audiences there's a big war between nice Christians and mean secularists. PURE FLIX

"Drive Me Crazy" star Melissa Joan Hart is finally in a movie again. Unfortunately it's "God's Not Dead 2." PURE FLIX



# Better off 'Dead'

Religious movies are in a bad spot right now, and even Melissa Joan Hart can't save them.

MATT PRIGGE
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## Even the OK ones suck

Even when these films largely refrain from painting believers as victims, they don't have much else going on. "The Young Messiah," the one about a button-cute, ever-smiling 7-year-old J.C. from March, is singularly dull and uneventful. The best of the recent batch, "Risen," has a legitimately strong first half: it's the Resurrection story told from the Roman side, and essentially an episode of "CSI" with sandals. But once our cynical soldier hero (Joseph Fiennes) has flip-flopped and joined up with the Apostles, it's a slog en route to a non-ending.

The biggest new movie release this week is, of course, a sequel. But it's not another superhero romp, or a YA movie, or even a family film — the three types of movies Hollywood now makes with any regularity. It's "God's Not Dead 2," whose predecessor was a very, very surprise hit two years back. It's the fourth religious movie of 2016 alone, and it wasn't screened for critics (natch). But if it's anything like 2014's "God's Not Dead," it's probably terrible and horribly depressing.

At this point there are more Christian-driven movies than at any other time in history — even more than when Hollywood devoted its biggest budgets to religious epics like "The Robe," "The Ten Commandments" and "Ben-Hur."

But so far quantity has trumped quality, and not merely because many are amateurish and lumpy. They tend to depict faith as a paranoid, black-and-white battle between nice believers and mean secularists, fanning the flames of a culture war that has been so greatly exaggerated that, with the rise of Trump, the imagined has finally become real.

The worst offender is the first "God's Not Dead," which makes sense seeing as it was a $2 million indie from a tiny evangelical company. Former "Hercules" he-man Kevin Sorbo plays a mean philosophy professor — it's called typecasting, people — who berates and threatens to destroy the college career of a nice Christian boy who refuses to sign a paper on the first day of class saying God does not exist.

But this fantasy is one of the least of the movie's offenses. Its worldview is of the cruel Old Testament kind, meaning it's driven by a sense of victimization and even dark vengeance. Sorbo's character does not meet a nice end, and among its far too many characters and subplots is a villainous Muslim father and an evil female journalist who questions "Duck Dynasty" bro Willie Robertson about his belief that wives should be submissive to husbands. She's rewarded with a diagnosis of cancer.

Jennifer Garner in "Miracles from Heaven" COLUMBIA PICTURES

The bigger Hollywood religious entries go relatively light, but they often leave some room for persecution. In "Miracles from Heaven," Jennifer Garner prays her face off until her sickly daughter gets better, she thinks by a divine hand. But just like in the uncannily similar "Heaven Is for Real," the climax features her beset-upon by rude monsters who question her claims, and we're only supposed to sympathize with her because they make her sad.

Christianity has been on the (very slight) decline since 2007, while being religiously "unaffiliated" is in vogue. That may partly explain why some faith-based films tend to act as though what's still the nation's No. 1 religion is under assault. But as in any form of cultural debate, the shrillest tend to be the loudest, and the films' Christians are no different. The everyday Christian, like any group, deserves movies that speak directly to them. Right now they're getting screwed.

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# Tom Hiddleston is trying to be a little bit country

The acclaimed English actor does a Southern twang to play Hank Williams in "I Saw the Light."

MATT PRIGGE
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matt.prigge@metro.us

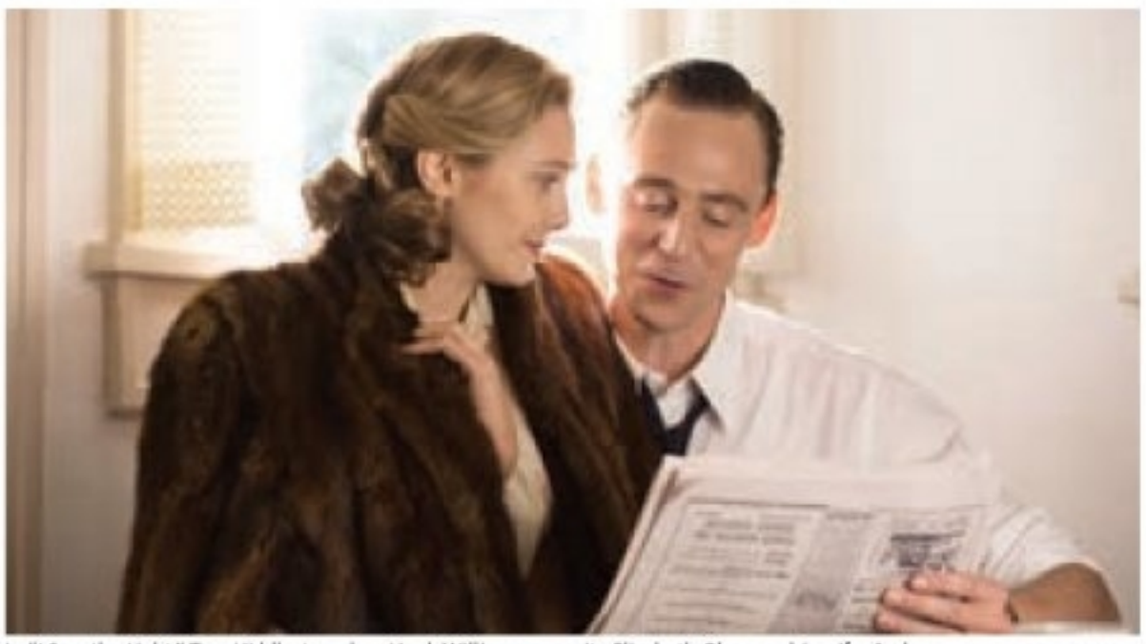
Tom Hiddleston might not be the first person you'd think of to play Hank Williams. He's British, he's blond, he's not a singer. But the actor, 35, committed to playing the country music icon in the biopic "I Saw the Light," which covers his career up until his sudden death at 29. At one point during our conversation, Hiddleston — who's juggled his duties as Marvel's villainous Loki with smaller, oft-challenging films like "The Deep Blue Sea," "Only Lovers Left Alive" and the forthcoming "High-Rise" — lets his proper English accent slip effortlessly into a Southern twang, just because he can, now.

GETTY IMAGES

**You have a history with theater work, but was it scary actually performing music live?**
Pure white terror. [Laughs]

**How did you overcome it?**
You have to use it as an engine to motivate you. I moved in with a musician named Rodney Crowell, who's based in Nashville — a huge lifetime fan of Hank Williams. He saw Hank on his dad's shoulders at the age of 2, and he remembers it. He invited me to live with him, to practice. I came down and he was playing a set at this folk festival in Michigan. He said, [adopts a spot-on Southern accent] "Tom, I feel like this is a good chance to experience what it's like to play in front of an audience." Bear in mind this was 24 hours outside London. [Laughs] He and I played in front of however many thousands of people. It was absolutely terrifying — but thrilling. In that moment I understood why the Mick Jaggers of this world, the Bob Dylans, the Bruce Springsteens — why they do this for decade after decade. It's an incredible adrenaline rush.

**Have you performed since the movie wrapped?**
We had a screening in Nashville in October. There was a party afterwards. I got onstage with the band and sang a few Hank songs. It was really fun. I would do these bits between the songs, and I realized I couldn't do them in an English accent. [Laughs] I had to stay in character. I'm not about to drop my solo album, if that's what you're asking. I don't think anybody needs that. [Laughs]


In "I Saw the Light," Tom Hiddleston plays Hank Williams opposite Elizabeth Olsen, as his wife, Audrey. SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

## In praise of singing

**You've played musicians before, such as in Jim Jarmusch's "Only Lovers Left Alive." What have you learned about them you didn't know going in?**
I have such huge admiration for musicians. Music is a huge inspiration for me. It's such a raw and immediate path to the heart. Singing is the most naked means of expression. Actors can hide behind characters, writers behind words. Singing is completely open. You think of Nina Simone, Amy Winehouse, Johnny Cash — people who wear their hearts on their sleeves, and singing is the purest way of doing that.

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Jaeden Lieberher ("St. Vincent") plays a boy with mysterious superpowers in "Midnight Special." BEN ROTHSTEIN

## "Midnight Special"

**Director:** Jeff Nichols
**Stars:** Michael Shannon, Kirsten Dunst
**Rating:** PG-13

• • • • •

A sci-fi film that's also a drama, "Midnight Special" tells of Jaeden Lieberher's Alton, a boy with mysterious superpowers, ranging from hearing radio signals to firing off blue lasers a la "X-Men's" Cyclops. Pursued by government heavies and religious fanatics alike, his only saviors are his parents (Michael Shannon and Kirsten Dunst), who have hit the road so he can achieve some obscure destiny.

The road trip that follows is very much in the '80s Spielberg vein, particularly John Carpenter's Spielbergian "Starman." But it's told in the ornery but lyrical voice of director Jeff Nichols, who previously explored family ties and belief in "Take Shelter." Special effects quietly invade its realistic sheen, as the film gently nudges us to read it as a loaded look at how far parents will go for their faith in their child.

Viewers have to put their faith in "Midnight Special," too: It's a film where key bits of intel are parceled out gradually, including who people are and what they're doing. When all (or, really, most) of the jigsaw pieces are finally in place, "Midnight Special" almost looks small. Or maybe it's just that it's modest, quietly going about its business of making a brainy and haunting renegade popcorn film. MATT PRIGGE

At least Englishman Tom Hiddleston does a mean Hank Williams in "I Saw the Light." SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

## "I Saw the Light"

**Director:** Marc Abraham
**Stars:** Tom Hiddleston, Elizabeth Olsen
**Rating:** R

• • • • •

The opening of "I Saw the Light" is downright incantatory, as though it was trying to summon the very spirit of its subject, Hank Williams. As the country music god, Tom Hiddleston stands in the middle of a stage, bathed in heavenly amber light, crooning one of his hits a cappella to a rapt, silent crowd. The camera slowly spins around him, drawing us into the English actor's uncanny vocal impersonation.

Sadly, this is a red herring: Immediately following this overture, "I Saw the Light" settles into the thumb-twiddling groove of a Wikipedia biopic, telling us that this happened, then this happened, then this happened, right until the legend's of course tastefully elided death at 29. Williams struggles to get into the Grand Ole Opry. Then he tries to get out. He has a raucous marriage to Elizabeth Olsen's Audrey, only to shack up with other women. He gets drunk and gets hooked on painkillers. We're supposed to adore him and hate him.

Hiddleston is spot-on, magnetic and repulsive at the same time, and Olsen is a fine foil, challenging him with every tetchy encounter. But the movie is flat and plodding — the very type of film the John C. Reilly-starring parody "Walk Hard" was supposed to have wiped out of existence. MP

Blake Jenner, Glen Powell, Temple Baker and Forrest Vickery play baseball bros in Richard Linklater's "Everybody Wants Some!!" PARAMOUNT PICTURES

## "Everybody Wants Some!!"

**Director:** Richard Linklater
**Stars:** Blake Jenner, Glen Powell
**Rating:** R

• • • • •

Richard Linklater's "Everybody Wants Some!!" is billed as the "spiritual sequel" to "Dazed and Confused," but it's really the spiritual sequel to nearly all Linklaters. If there's one thing all his movies share, it's the combination of joy and terror that comes from living in the moment. Sometimes those moments are happy ("Before Sunrise"), sometimes they're painful ("Before Midnight"), but they will always pass, eaten up in the cruel march of existence.

So it goes with "Everybody Wants Some!!," which, on its face, is a bro hangout movie about 12 fun-loving guys on a Texas college baseball team in 1980. There's nothing much on their schedules — just bars, nightclubs, more bars, maybe a frou-frou performance art school party and plenty but plenty of ball-busting.

"Dazed and Confused" waited till the final stretch to put a grim, cosmic spin on the fun: that the beer-soaked high school partying we'd just seen better not be the best years of their lives. Some of us may come to "Everybody Wants Some!!" with the baggage of past Linklaters. We may know that the plotless zeal captured in this film is ultimately bittersweet — that the good times one day end. Drink up. MP

# Keeping it realish

"The Realish Housewives of Boston" have arrived.

ALLYSON FLORIDIA
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This is for real — sort of. KIRSTEN MICCOLI

We all know the Bravo shows: "The Real Housewives of Atlanta," "Beverly Hills," "Miami" and so on, which we love for the shameless plot lines, and oh-no-she-didn't moments they bring to the small screen. Now, a parody titled "The Realish Housewives" is bringing the drama to the stage.

"They're all big, over-the-top personalities," says cast member Katie Caussin. "[However,] it's a little bit more self-aware, to a certain degree, through the dialogue of making fun of the values of those types of women."

Caussin describes her character, Gwen, as an "opportunistic politician." She's just been released from prison and "being on the reality show is how she plans on getting back out into the public eye."

But Gwen's storyline isn't the most dramatic.

"Ravonka is probably the central queen bee character who initiates all the drama," says Caussin about the wealthy socialite, played by Lori McClain. Ravonka is a little mean and self-absorbed, with an extremely dominant personality. A slight Eastern European accent completes the image. "[She's] kind of the puppet master," adds Caussin.

The other leading ladies are Brooke (Lindsey Pearlman), the bossy, self-made entrepreneur who doesn't tolerate any nonsense, CL (Katy Carolina Collins), the preachy homemaker who believes her family is better than everyone else's and Desiree (Emjoy Gavino), the entitled neck model who's always out of the loop.

Throughout the show, all five women talk to, about and over the others in their effort to get to most stage time. The host, Randy Bowen (Jackson Evans), further stokes their antics.

So what city exactly does "Realish Housewives" take place in? Each show is customized to the performance location, so the characters consistently reference local restaurants, shops, events and political scandals.

Caussin adds, "There's one moment where a character interacts with an audience member, and then they're referenced during the show."

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# Through the looking glass

Wolf Alice talks about influence and commitment.

MATTHEW DINARO
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No mega egos on this stage. CHIAKI NOZU/WIREIMAGE

It hasn't even been a year since the release of British alt-rock group Wolf Alice's debut album, "My Love is Cool," and the band has already earned a Grammy nomination for their single "Moaning Lisa Smile." It's just one more achievement among innumerable accolades from the alternative and mainstream tastemakers. We got to chat with drummer Joel Amey about the band's musical sensibilities, group dynamic and rise to international fame.

**When I first heard Wolf Alice, I heard one heavier song, and pegged you as a grunge band. But as I listened more I realized you have a wide range of moods, tones and dynamics. Is that something you aim for, to not repeat yourselves?**

Nothing has been very contrived with us. There's no need to have one sonic identity anymore. If anything, that's more limiting. It's whatever's best for the song. We might want the next record to be as heavy as possible, but if we end up writing 12 acoustic lullabies that are stronger and more in tune with where we are at the time, then that's the album we should make.

**With Ellie Rowsell as the lead singer, and the only woman in the band, it might seem like she's the main creative force. But you all contribute to the songs. So I wonder if there's an advantage to that kind of anonymity for you three, because the attention's probably mostly on her.**

It's funny, because I know her, and she doesn't think of herself like that. Ellie's the most un-egotistical, modest, down-to-earth superstar I've ever come in contact with. In my opinion, she's the star, and it's wicked to be in a band with her. But we are all involved. It's the four of us coming together.

**You've said that Wolf Alice's big break was a mention on the NME's "Radar" in 2012. People could view that as dumb luck, maybe, but they'd probably be discounting the work that led to it.**

There is an element of luck involved, but it's 90 percent getting off of your backside and treating it as professional as you want it to be, even if it's not your "professional" profession. The day we decided "Let's be that band who rehearse every day and write songs every day, even if they're rubbish, and send them to each other," that was when Wolf Alice became like, "Well actually, we could maybe do this."

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# DON'T RULE OUT WORST TO FIRST FOR SOX

Closer Craig Kimbrel was one of the Red Sox' big pickups this past offseason. GETTY IMAGES

OPINION

**DANNY PICARD**
@dannypicard

Here we go. Just days away from Opening Day.

And the goal is to go from worst to first, again. The Red Sox won the AL East and the World Series in 2013, just a year after finishing the 2012 season in last place in the division. Since that 2013 championship, the Red Sox have sunk back to the basement of that same division the last two seasons. Dave Dombrowski has already made an impact on the organization, as he enters his first full season in Boston. During the winter, Dombrowski and Mike Hazen highlighted the team's biggest needs, and they attacked — trading for closer Craig Kimbrel and signing ace David Price.

Of course, the 2016 Red Sox roster is not perfect. We've already gone over the disappointing attitudes of Pablo Sandoval and Hanley Ramirez to begin spring training. And an early leg injury to Eduardo Rodriguez has forced manager John Farrell to go with knuckleballer Steven Wright as the fifth start in the rotation to begin the season. Don't forget about reliever Carson Smith, who was considered a steal for the Red Sox this winter. Like Rodriguez, he will also begin the year on the disabled list. But for the most part, Dombrowski and Hazen made the necessary improvements to put the team back into the conversation of AL East contenders. Though, as we get closer to Opening Day, some will continue to point out the question marks, as they force themselves to reject the notion that this Red Sox club can contend for a championship. We've already mentioned a few of those question marks. Others would be the offensive production of Jackie Bradley Jr., Rusney Castillo's future and the realistic expectations for every starting pitcher not named Price.

But the way I look at it, during every conversation that previews the 2016 MLB season, I can't overlook the high-caliber players that the Red Sox have added. For all the concerns that are out there, you can't have a much better offseason than the Sox did, by acquiring one of the best starters and — in my opinion — the best closer in baseball. Combined with the thought of players like Xander Bogaerts and Mookie Betts coming off career years, Dustin Pedroia being healthy and an added motivation to send David Ortiz out on top, I find myself feeling pretty optimistic about this group.

Sure, they could use some more pitching. But Rodriguez isn't expected to be out long, and entering his second MLB season at just 22 years old, he has the type of power stuff that should catapult him to the No. 2 spot in the rotation by Memorial Day. And who knows, by the time you get to the trade deadline, maybe Dombrowski and Hazen can pull the trigger on a blockbuster deal that will get them another stud starter.

Also, many in the organization are still high on 25-year-old catcher Christian Vazquez. His return from last year's Tommy John surgery may be sooner than you think.

Look at it any way you want. But facts are facts: The Red Sox are a much-improved ball club in 2016. Will they go from worst to first? In a couple of days, we'll start to get some answers. All I'm saying is, they have a much better chance to accomplish that goal than you might think.

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# Sandoval's value takes a massive hit with benching

Pablo Sandoval will be a backup to Travis Shaw to start the 2016 season.

MATT BURKE
@burke_metro
matthew.burke@metro.us

Pablo Sandoval is set to become the highest paid bench player in the majors this season after the Red Sox chose Travis Shaw as their starting third baseman on Thursday.

"For right now to start the season, I feel this is the best for our team to go with this alignment," Red Sox manager John Farrell said Thursday. "My focus is on the guys that are in uniform, not what's attached to them or what their contract states."

Sandoval signed a five-year, $95 million contract with the Sox prior to the start of last season but had a highly disappointing 2015 in Boston and showed up to the start of this year's training camp looking out of shape.

"It's the right decision to help the team win," Sandoval said Thursday. "It's going to be difficult, but I have to be happy. [Shaw] has had a fantastic spring. I'll just focus on working hard."

Shaw is regarded as a much better defensive player than Sandoval and also hit .274 with 13 home runs and 36 RBIs in 2015 in just 65 games played. Sandoval hit just .245 with 10 home runs and 47 RBIs in 126 games played in 2015.

Sandoval's value around the league had already been low due to his beefy contract and recent low production, but with the Red Sox having sent him to the bench they themselves are admitting to Sandoval's sharp decline.

CBS Sports' Jon Heyman speculated earlier this week that the Padres could deal 34-year-old pitcher James Shields to Boston in exchange for Sandoval, but even that seems like a stretch now. While Shields had a rough 2015 (3.91 ERA, 1.33 WHIP, 13-7 record) he is still most certainly regarded as a starting MLB hurler.

Pablo Sandoval will begin the 2016 season riding the Red Sox' bench. GETTY IMAGES

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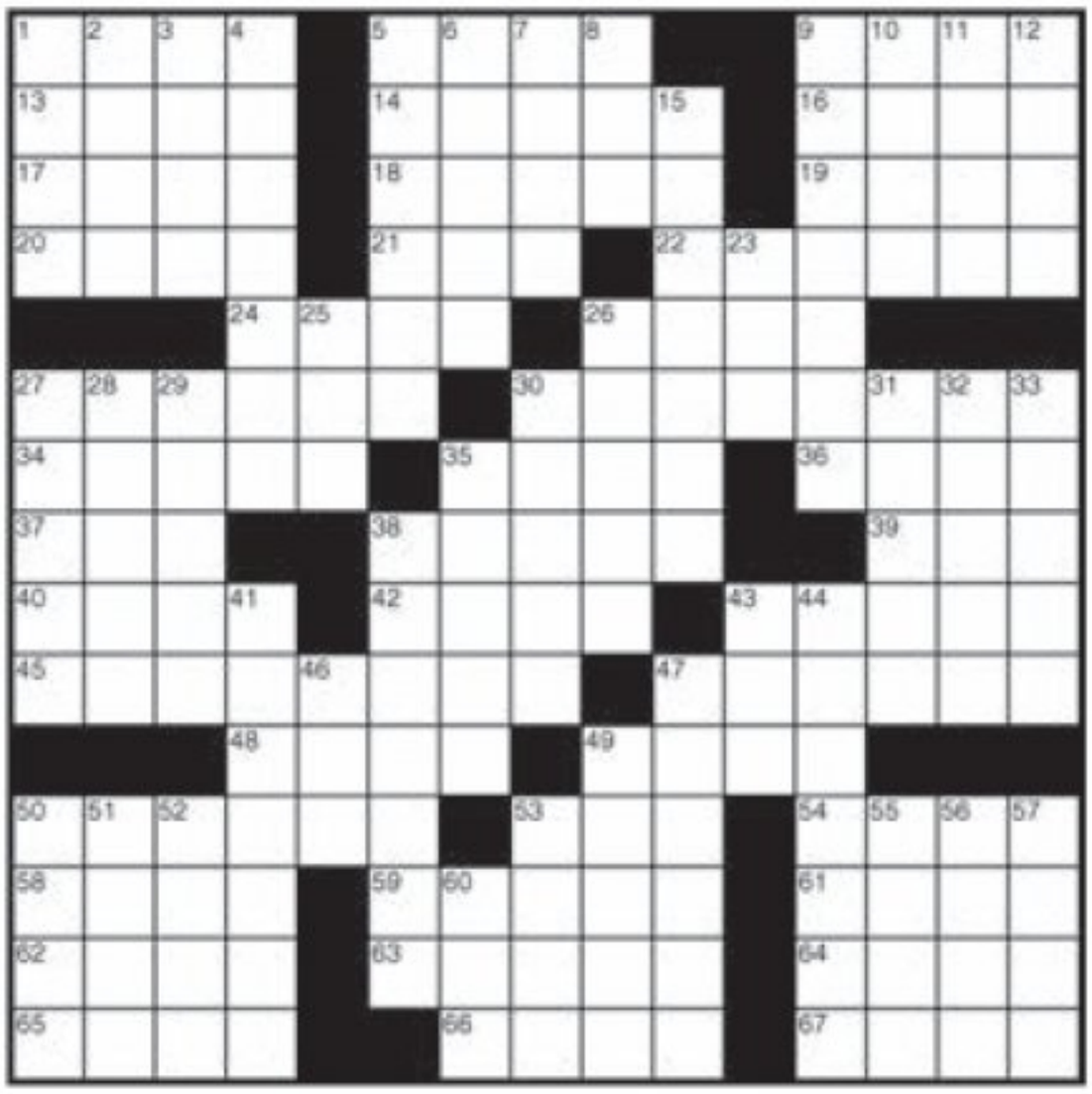
# metro.us/crossword



**Across**

1 Mound of earth
5 Heavy metal band
9 Nimble
13 Tony's cousin
14 Mustang
16 Mr. Ducommun
17 Leaning tower city
18 Insurance giant
19 Reunion attendee
20 NFL broadcaster
21 Eur. airline
22 Loud watercraft (2 wds.)
24 Giant-ant movie
26 Hindu mystic
27 On the loose
30 Settle
34 Treat a wound
35 Roused up
36 Gooey mass
37 John, in Glasgow
38 Golfer's shouts
39 High dudgeon
40 Cote dwellers
42 Smoke-detector output
43 "The Wreck of the Mary —"
45 Without thinking
47 Apartments without rent
48 Team setback
49 Red meat
50 Deepest
53 Sine — non
54 Night fliers
58 — Man Triathlon
59 Meets edge to edge
61 Cafe au —
62 DEA operative
63 VIP accommodations
64 Impromptu screwdriver
65 Great merriment
66 Road map info
67 Shut with a bang

**Down**

1 Optimistic feeling
2 Heron kin
3 Kiddie talk?
4 Shacks (hyph.)
5 Belittled
6 It may be sour
7 Pixels
8 News channel
9 Auditorium concern
10 Positive sign
11 Icy place
12 Sherpa's sighting
15 Coaxes
23 "I" trouble
25 — -been
26 Blouse parts
27 Farewell
28 Muscle
29 Keep subscribing
30 Trite
31 Saga of Hector and Priam
32 Man in a mask
33 Touche provokers
35 Cashmere and merino
38 Pinata occasions
41 Hush
43 Woodland creature
44 Swaddles
46 Brillo rival
47 Halts
49 Mesa's cousin
50 Ding-a- —
51 Aloud
52 Got threadbare
53 Throw in the towel
55 Banshees do it
56 City or bean
57 Pipe handle
60 Clingy seedpod

metro.us/games

# metro.us/sudoku

**easy**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | | 9 | | 1 | | | | |
| | 7 | 5 | | 4 | | | 1 | |
| | | | 6 | 8 | 9 | | | 4 |
| | | | | | 8 | 4 | | |
| | 5 | 6 | | | | 2 | 7 | |
| | | 3 | 2 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | 4 | 9 | 1 | | | |
| | 9 | | | 5 | | 3 | 4 | |
| | | | | 2 | | 1 | | 7 |

**hard**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 4 | | | | |
| 2 | | | 7 | | 8 | | | 6 |
| | 7 | 8 | | | 5 | | 1 | |
| | 5 | 3 | 8 | 9 | | | | |
| | | 4 | 1 | | 6 | 5 | | |
| | | | | 5 | 7 | 4 | 9 | |
| | 2 | | 5 | | | 3 | 4 | |
| 4 | | | 6 | | 3 | | | 9 |
| | | | | 1 | | | | |

# metro.us/horoscopes

**Aries** If someone is being difficult, walk away. It's important to focus on what you can do, not what you are unable to do. Be positive and make changes that encourage personal growth.

**Taurus** If you embrace a challenge, you will make a lasting impression. Your ability to be diplomatic yet firm will give you the edge and put you in a position of power.

**Gemini** Keep your life simple and don't complicate matters by getting involved with people who don't share your beliefs, morals or integrity. Focus on personal change, not changing others.

**Cancer** Share your feelings and be willing to compromise if it will help you get ahead. Love is encouraged, and making a romantic gesture will be well-received.

**Leo** A carefully thought-out and disciplined approach will be unbeatable. If you take pride in what you do, you will be recognized for your talent and ability to bring about positive change.

**Virgo** A partnership is favored. Sharing your ideas and plans for the future will help you come to an agreement with someone you want to spend more time with.

**Libra** Look for alternative ways to put your skills to good use. Don't be daunted by someone's negativity or lack of help. Do your own thing and reap the rewards.

**Scorpio** You'll have an impact on the people you encounter. The collaboration that unfolds will become a valuable venture. A romantic development will make your day.

**Sagittarius** Don't take the blame for someone else's mistake. Protect your reputation by being precise and honest. Don't be tempted by a lofty scheme. A physical risk will result in injury.

**Capricorn** Make a financial change that ensures the absolute privacy of your personal affairs. One of your ideas will lead to a window of opportunity. Romance is encouraged.

**Aquarius** Strive to be your best. Personal growth will unfold if you read a self-help book or engage in something that updates your awareness or improves your look or appeal.

**Pisces** The unfamiliar will draw you in. You'll be tempted to indulge in pastimes that can be costly. Protect your cash, physical health and reputation. A romantic opportunity is apparent. **EUGENIA LAST**

Yesterday's answers

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